

X. Implementation

Implementing this Strategy will depend on coordinating conservation efforts among diverse partners. Such efforts will bring together expertise and funds from various sources and apply them to needs identified in the Strategy. As an example, see discussions on collaborative monitoring found in Section VIII (Monitoring of Species and Habitats). One of the needs identified by Congress, and broadly supported by experts and partners in the Alaska process, will be to align Alaska's existing programs to better achieve multispecies and ecosystem goals and ensure protection and management of wildlife diversity.

The department's decisions about funding, timing, and cooperators will be directed according to budget cycles and federal processes associated with State Wildlife Grants and other funding sources. Since the charter establishing the CWCS



Alaska marmot

ADF&G

Oversight Committee and Task Force (see Section II, Methodology and Approach) expires with Strategy submittal and approval in fall 2005, a new decision-making structure will be needed to guide implementation efforts. Meanwhile, partners will need to follow guidance and procedures unique to their own organizations and available fiscal resources. Cooperators may find it advantageous to formalize their working arrangements in memoranda of understanding.

Many potential CWCS partners are already involved with wildlife and fish conservation in this state, and many more will become involved as funding levels and sources increase. In Alaska, collecting, compiling and reporting data on species, including monitoring of trends, will be a big challenge. Data analysis and interpretation will require staffing increases. Timely evaluation and adjustment to species and habitat conservation actions will be of primary importance in the context of plan implementation.

This Strategy provides an impetus to improve existing cooperation and involve additional partners. By compiling state fish and wildlife conservation issues in a single document for the first time, it will now be possible to develop a coordinated approach ranging from individual species' concerns up to regional or broader habitat-level concerns. The Strategy is more than an outline for specific conservation actions; it can also serve as a framework for expanding partnerships and collaboration in support of these actions. A first step will be to identify individuals, land managers, and organizations that can contribute to and use CWCS information in a timely way.